Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/643,782	SCHONEBECK, HORST	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sam Chuan C. Yao	1733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *08-05-05*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-9,20-22 and 24-30*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *19 August 2003* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
   1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
   1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 8/5/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

SAM CHUAN YAO
PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms Kerrie Laba on 08-04-05.

The application has been amended as follows:

See the attached applicant's proposed amendment.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While the presently recited claims require a finished *"vehicle interior lining [which] is permeable to air"*, there is no suggestion in the teachings of GB '098 that a resultant impregnated article of GB '098 is air-permeable. In fact (although not explicitly stated), the teachings GB '098 would have suggested to one in the art that the resultant impregnated article is air-impermeable as evidence from the following passages: *"[t]he product comprises at least the following layers: a rigid layer of fiber-reinforced hardened thermosetting sheet filled completely or substantially with hardened resin, and a layer of polyurethane foam. ... so that these first layers actually form a hard and rigid skin, on the polyurethane foam."* (emphasis added; page 2 lines 21-36). Moreover, there is no suggestion in GB '098 for forming a vehicle interior liner. Also see page 2 lines 53-57 for a type of

articles being manufactured in a process of GB '098. For these reasons, the recited independent claims are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Chuan C. Yao whose telephone number is (571) 272-1224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday with second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (571) 272-1156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sam Chuan C. Yao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

Scy
08-05-05

Proposed Claims For Examiner's Amendment
Serial No. 10/643,782
Examiner: S. Yao

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a vehicle interior lining comprising:

forming an intermediate product having a decorative layer and an open-cell foam barrier layer, the open-cell foam barrier layer adjoining a rear side of the decorative layer; and

providing a foam backing to a rear side of the intermediate product by a back foaming process that includes applying a liquid plastic to the open-cell foam barrier layer, wherein the open-cell foam barrier layer blocks the liquid plastic to prevent the liquid plastic from penetrating the open-cell foam barrier layer toward the decorative layer wherein the vehicle interior lining is permeable to air.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming the intermediate product comprises gluing the open-cell foam barrier layer and the decorative layer to each other.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein forming the intermediate product comprises laminating the open-cell foam barrier and the decorative layer together.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a fiber mat is applied to a rear side of the foam backing produced during the back foaming process.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a fiber mat is embedded in the liquid plastic during the back foaming process.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid plastic is directly applied to the open-cell foam barrier layer and comes into contact with the open-cell foam barrier layer during the back foaming process.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising introducing fibers into the liquid plastic during the back foaming process, wherein the fibers are distributed in the foam backing formed by the back foaming process.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the fibers are glass fibers introduced into the liquid plastic via a Long Fiber Injection process.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising embedding at least one of a fastener and a spacer in the liquid plastic during the back foaming process.

10-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid plastic is polyurethane.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the decorative layer is one selected from a group consisting of a textile material, a leather material, and an imitation leather material.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the open-cell foam barrier layer is permeable to air.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a vehicle interior lining comprising:

joining a decorative layer and a barrier layer together to form an intermediate product wherein the decorative layer comprises an air-permeable material and the barrier layer comprises an open-cell foam that is air-permeable;

back foaming a foam layer onto one side of the intermediate product by applying a liquid plastic to the barrier layer; ~~and~~

blocking the liquid plastic with the barrier layer to prevent the liquid plastic from penetrating the barrier layer and contacting the decorative layer; and

wherein the barrier layer of the open-cell foam comprises a soft layer such that the intermediate product of the decorative layer and barrier layer cooperate to provide the

vehicle interior lining with a soft touch exterior surface with the vehicle interior lining being permeable to air.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 including positioning the barrier layer intermediate the decorative layer and the foam layer such that the barrier layer directly contacts both the decorative layer and the foam layer.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 including attaching a fiber mat directly to the foam layer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26 including embedding a spacer within the foam layer to maintain a predetermined distance between the fiber mat and the barrier layer during back foaming.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 including injecting a plurality of fibers into the foam layer during back foaming and blocking the plurality of fibers with the barrier layer to prevent the plurality of fibers from penetrating the decorative layer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the decorative layer forms a vehicle interior surface with the barrier layer being positioned between the vehicle interior surface and a vehicle roof component.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the open-cell foam barrier layer comprises a soft layer such that the intermediate product of the decorative layer and open-cell foam barrier layer cooperate to provide the vehicle interior lining with a soft touch exterior surface.